of petroleum products in the country during the last one year; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Petroleum products are being imported during the current year (1991–92) under term contracts with the National Oil Companies of USSR, China, Malayasia, USE and Bahrain and through spot purchases.

(d) and (e). Amongst the steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap of petroleum products are;

(i) Intensification of activities relating to exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas;

(ii) Setting up of grass root refineries and expansion of existing refineries; and

(iii) Attaching high priority to energy conservation measures in all sectors of economy.

[*Translation*]

Accredition to Agencies for making Passports

4668. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded accredition to various agencies for making passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of authorised agencies working under the Regional Passport Office at Bareilly;

(d) whether certain agencies working under the Bareilly Regional Passport Office have been blacklisted; and

(e) if so, the details of such agencies and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and(b). Travel Agencies are given recognition to deal with a Passport Office in India in respect of passport matters of their customers.

(c) Ten.

(d) Appropriate action are being taken against two travel agencies.

(e)(i)The UP Police have registered a case of forgery against M/s Ganga Travels Haridwar. The Police has seized about 300 passports/documents from this Company.

(ii) The Up Police have reported adversely against M/s. International Trade and Travel Service, Meerut.

[*English*]

Soviet Aided Steel Plants

4669. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent developments in USSR have had any adverse effects on the ongoing/existing steel projects taken up with Soviet aid/collaboration; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply and flow of capital

goods, technology and other materials required for smooth running of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) and (b). The impact of recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector essentially relates to the utilisation of undisbursed credit and supply of plant and equipment for the steel plants. The Minister of External Affairs has recently visited Moscow and discussed various aspects of India's economic co–operation with the Soviet Union. The discussions have revealed that there was a genuine desire on the part of the Soviets and Russian leadership to address all problems with a view to finding early solutions to them and that existing agreement on economic co–operation would be honoured. The problems will be further discussed in greater detail during the visit of Moscow of a high level multi–disciplinary group from India which will meet their counterparts, both from the USSR and also from the Russian Federation. It is not, therefore, possible to definitely assess the impact, if any, of the recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector projects at this stage.

Nuclear Weapons Free World

4670. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation called for the destruction of nuclear weapons by the nuclear powers and also for banning of nuclear tests during the recent meeting of the United Nations General Assembly;

(b) if so, the response of the other member countries thereto;

(c) whether the Government had made any initiative to attain the goal of 'Nuclear Weapons Free World' after the six–nation initiative by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These objectives are supported by the large number of countries.

(c) In June 1988 former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi while addressing the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, presented an Action Plan for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2010.

(d) The Action Plan calls upon the international community to negotiate a binding commitment to general and complete disarmament. It contains a package of measures that structurally links the entire range of issues presently on the world disarmament agenda. The most essential feature of the Action Plan is the achievement of the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons in a phased and time–bound manner.

Strike by ONGC Employees

4671. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the O.N.G.C. workers went on a strike in protest against the kidnapping of some of their colleagues by the militants;

(b) if so, the number of O.N.G.C. employees kidnapped, got released and still with the ULFA and other militants in the North–east; and